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**In the United States Patent and Trademark Office**

Appn. Number: 10/687,272  
Appn. Filed: 15 October 2003  
Applicant(s): Markus D. Herrema  
Appn. Title: Process for the Utilization of Ruminant Animal Methane Emissions  
Examiner: Rosanne Kosson  
Art Unit: 1651

Mailed: 11 December 2004

At: Laguna Niguel, CA

**Amendment A**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir or Madam:

In response to the Office Action mailed 15 September 2004, please amend the above application as follows:

**Claims:** Cancel all claims of record and substitute new claims 18-31 as follows.

**18.** A method for producing methane-utilizing microorganisms in a confined apparatus comprising using the methane exhaled through ruminant animal exhalation as a source of carbon and/or energy for the growth of said microorganisms, comprising:

- a. collecting methane gas that has been exhaled through ruminant animal exhalation,
- b. providing methane-utilizing microorganisms which can use said methane as a source of carbon and/or energy for growth,